

SJES JUBILEE: A SOLEMN INAUGURATION IN GC AUDITORIUM

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The Golden Jubilee of the Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat was solemnly inaugurated by His Eminence Cardinal Peter K.A. Turkson, His Eminence Cardinal Michael Czerny and R.P. Superior General of the Society of Jesus. The theme of the day "To celebrate God's Faithfulness in our 50 Year Journey" was elaborated and substantiated by the Resource Persons of the day.

The day began with some important information and explanation of the procedures, followed by an half-an-hour Prayer led by Latin American Delegates.

Xavier Jayraj, current SJES Secretary extended a warm welcome to all the participants and exhorted all to draw maximum fruits from the 5 days long Congress. Hand-woven tribal shawls were offered to the eminent guests present on the Dias for the Inauguration.

In his Keynote address His Eminence Cardinal Turkson presented a panoramic vision of the Integral Human Development and the Universal Apostolic Preferences: Situating the Mission of Jesuit Social Apostolate within the Larger Social Justice Mission of the Church. His Eminence Czerny, as the former SJES Secretary, reintroduced the SJES and the Social Apostolate in the Society of Jesus.

Finally, in his inaugural address, R.P. Arturo Sosa underlined multi-faceted responsibilities of Jesuits involved directly in the area of social justice and ecology. Speaking on "On the Path to a Reconciled world", he offered ten points for reflection, which ultimately set the tone for the proceedings of the Congress.